REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. The Abstract was objected to as being in excess of 150 words, and containing claim language such as "means" and "said."

Abstract

The Abstract has been amended by removing the word "means" and shortening the length to less than 150 words.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1 and 6-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Xiong et al.* (USP 6,721,315). Applicants respectfully submit that the following arguments address and traverse the Office Action's rejections, thereby warranting allowance of all the claims in their present form.

The Office Action contends *Xiong* discloses an optical router which delays the "...electrical routing control signal by an electrical signal delay time determined according to the delay time information before outputting the electrical routing control signal to the optical switch," as set forth in claim 1 of the present application. The Office Action relies on Figures 5 and 6 and their accompanying description in the Specification of *Xiong*.

Xiong is "[a] control architecture for an optical burst-switched network..." (Abstract). Figure 5 describes an optical core router located within the optical burst-switched network. Unlike the present invention, Figure 5 shows an optical core router that uses two sets of input

fibers to direct data to the correct path. DCG_1 (Data Channel Group) carries the data, while CCG_1 (Control Channel Group) carries the control data located in the header of the information packet. This separation of the "burst header packet" and the "burst payload packet" occurs at the "ingress router" located at the outer most periphery of the optical burst-switched network (Figure 1).

Unlike *Xiong*, the present invention receives both the data information and header information (e.g. control data), in one packet. Since the optical core router in *Xiong* receives the data information and the header information separately, (as taught in the Specification, column 4, lines 30-32), the referenced invention cannot disclose what is taught in the present application.

Furthermore, the present application teaches "delaying the electrical routing control signal," in claim 1. The present invention delays the electronic routing control signal until the optical signal and the electronic control signal are ready to be transmitted (Figure 9), thereby reducing any wasted time and increasing the efficiency of the router. *Xiong* does not disclose or suggest this feature. In the description accompanying Figures 5 and 6 of *Xiong*, it appears that *Xiong* discloses trying to " 'resynchronize' the burst payload and its corresponding burst header packet by keeping the offset time τ as close as possible to τ_0 as shown earlier in Figure 3" (Column 6, Lines 30-33).

In *Xiong*, it appears that since the payload data and the header data are necessarily separated at the ingress router, the optical core router ***must*** recombine the payload data and header data to ensure proper routing. When *Xiong* refers to τ, it probably is referring to

synchronizing the payload data with the header data. This is very different than the present invention which delays sending the "*electronic routing control signal to the optical switch*," to allow the entire information packet, data and header, to be transmitted to the next node.

Furthermore, *Xiong* could not disclose what is presently required in claim 1 of the application, since the header information in *Xiong* is "stripped" from the burst packet and "transmitted in the CCG." Column 4, lines 35-38. As shown in Figure 5, the CCG is not delayed. Only the DCG is delayed, but without the routing information attached to the header parts thereof. In the present invention, in claim 1, the header information already exists with, and is attached to, the data information; "optical delay means for delaying a plurality of said optical signals containing routing information attached to the header part thereof by an optical signal delay time."

Claim 1 teaches delaying the header information. *Xiong* does not. Therefore, for the reasons mentioned above, *Xiong* does not anticipate the present invention.

In view of the aforementioned amendments to the Abstract and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Office Action believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Office Action is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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